GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3692
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
SHORTAGE OF BLOOD
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of blood as a result of ban imposed on professional blood donors; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no overall shortage of blood in the country. However, there could be seasonal and occasional shortages of blood in different parts of the country. There are different norms to assess blood requirements for transfusion. WHO norm refers to 7 units of blood per hospital bed per annum. If WHO norms are applied, we would require 42.00 lakh units ofblood per annum, where as it is estimated that about 30.00 lakh units of blood is collected per annum in the country. However, considering that a vast majority of the beds in the country are unlikely to use 7 units of blood per annum, the shortage of blood is not severe. For generating enough blood through Voluntary Blood Donation Programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through TV, AIR and newspaper, developing IEC material for one-to-one communication; observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year; encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaigns to educate masses to support voluntary blood donations.